# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3550
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
DOHA ROUND OF WTO TALKS
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether many countries including India have found the two drafts for WTO talks regarding Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) deficient in some vital aspects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the original Doha mandate, the flexibilities the developing countries require to keep their industries out of the tariff reduction commitments have not been incorporated in the WTO report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of India in particular and developing countries in general and for the successful conclusion of the Doha round?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): The Chairman of the negotiating groups on agriculture and non agricultural market access (NAMA) have in the draft modalities dated 6 December, 2008 mentioned specific negotiating elements where there were either large divergences in views or no consensus. These areas include amongst others the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM), subsidies on cotton, tariff simplification etc in agriculture and sectoral initiatives, erosion of preference etc in non agricultural market access (NAMA). In the draft modalities, flexibilities for keeping industrial products out of the tariff reduction commitments have been proposed.

(e) The government has been negotiating for self-designation of an appropriate number of Special Products (SPs), an operational and effective Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) and flexibilities under NAMA which are adequate and appropriate to safeguard the livelihood concerns of its farmers and industrial workers. India has also been working closely with her coalition partners in developing country groupings like the G-33, G-20 and NAMA 11 in order to achieve the most favourable outcome possible in the interests of developing countries for successfully concluding the Doha Round.